

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09065 262124Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1021
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF ROMANOV AND GRISHIN

REF: LENINGRAD 1233

1. EMBASSY WOULD ADD FOLLOWING TO CONGEN LENINGRAD'S
THOUGHT-PROVOKING REPORT (REFTEL) ON ROMANOV AND HIS
RECENT SPEECH TO THE LENINGRAD OBKOM:

--ALTHOUGH PRAVDA OF APRIL 20 DID NOT MENTION THE APRIL
19 MOSCOW CITY MEETING WHICH WAS ADDRESSED BY GRISHIN,
(PARAGRAPH THREE, REFTEL) A TASS ITEM ON THE MOSCOW GATHER-
ING WAS CARRIED ON PAGE TWO OF IZVESTIYA APRIL 20, AND AN
ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE SAME TASS REPORT WAS CARRIED IN
PRAVDA ON APRIL 2L;

--IT COULD BE THAT THE APRIL 19 MEETING IN MOSCOW TOOK
PLACE AFTER PRAVDA'S REGULAR AFTERNOON DEADLINE AND WAS
NOT CONSIDERED IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO MERIT SPECIAL TREATMENT
FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT DAY'S PRAVDA;
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--AS WE RECALL, THE MOSCOW MEETING OF APRIL 19 WAS
FULLY COVERED IN THE OFFICIAL CITY NEWSPAPER MOSKOVSKAYA
PRAVDA APRIL 20 (WE DID NOT SAVE THAT ISSUE OF MOSKOVSKAYA
PRAVDA);

--PRAVDA OFTEN DOES NOT LIST OBKOM PERSONNEL SHIFTS BELOW

THE FIRST SECRETARY LEVEL, AND PRAVDA'S FAILURE TO DO SO IN THIS CASE COULD SIMPLY MEAN THAT ARISTOV'S TRANSFER TO DIPLOMATIC WORK DOES NOT BEAR SIGNIFICANTLY ON THE OVERALL LEADERSHIP EQUATION;

--WE AGREE THAT PRAVDA'S TREATMENT OF ROMANOV'S APRIL 19 SPEECH IS INTRIGUING, ALTHOUGH PRAVDA ROUTINELY DEVOTES ONLY A FEW PARAGRAPHS TO SUCH SPEECHES (FOR EXAMPLE, GRISHIN DELIVERED A LENGTHY ADDRESS, MOSTLY ON THE GLORIES OF BREZHNEV'S MEMOIRS, TO A MEETING IN MOSCOW APRIL 24; THE SPEECH WAS PRINTED IN FULL IN MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA BUT RECEIVED ONLY FOUR BRIEF PARAGRAPHS IN PRAVDA).

2. IN ANY CASE, ROMANOV BEARS CAREFUL WATCHING AS A POTENTIALLY KEY PLAYER IN LEADERSHIP MANEUVERING, AND WE APPRECIATE CONGEN LENINGRAD'S EFFORTS IN THIS RESPECT.
TOON

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